

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A wayside rail lubrication apparatus for applying lubrication for the passage of trains having one or more locomotives constituting a consist pulling a plurality of load cars along the rails, the apparatus comprising:

a sensor associated with a first position along a rail for producing a lubrication signal when a locomotive pulling a plurality of load cars moves adjacent the first position; and

a lubricant dispensing apparatus for applying a lubricant at a second position along the rail in response to the lubrication signal, the lubricant adapted to reduce the friction between wheels of the load cars and the rail, the first position and the second position being separated by a distance along the rail with the first position being farther along the rail in a direction of movement of the locomotive relative to the second position, the distance being greater than a length of the consist so as to be sufficient to prevent the lubricant from contacting any drive wheel of the locomotive consist, whereby friction at the rail is reduced for the load cars of the train without loss of tractive effort of the locomotive consist on the rails.

2. (previously presented) The wayside rail lubrication apparatus of claim 1, the lubricant dispensing apparatus further comprising:

a lubricant container for storing a volume of lubricant;

a pump for delivering lubricant from the lubricant container to an applicator along the rail; and

a refilling device for adding lubricant to the lubricant container at no more than a predetermined rate so that lubricant available for application over a predetermined period of time is limited.

3. (original) The wayside rail lubrication apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a bypass device for selectively preventing the lubricant dispensing apparatus from applying the lubricant in response to the lubrication signal.

4. (previously presented) The wayside rail lubrication apparatus of claim 1, further comprising;

a sensor providing a train end signal when a rear end of the train passes a third position along the rail;

a controller responsive to the train end signal to terminate the application of the lubricant by the lubricant dispensing apparatus before a number of the load cars at the rear end of the train pass the second position.

Claims 5 and 6 (cancelled).

7. (previously presented) A wayside rail lubrication apparatus for lubricating rails for the passage of trains along the rails, the apparatus comprising:

a detection apparatus for providing a lubrication signal in response to the presence of a train on a rail adjacent the detection apparatus;

a lubricant dispensing apparatus operable to apply a lubricant in response to the lubrication signal to reduce friction of the train on the rails; and

a bypass device for selectively preventing a start of operation of the lubricant dispensing apparatus in spite of a presence of the lubrication signal under circumstances in which the addition of lubricant is undesirable;

wherein the bypass device comprises a wireless communication system receiver for receiving a signal from a wireless communication system transmitter located on the train for controlling the bypass device.

Claims 8-27 (cancelled).